AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the instant application. Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting a plurality of broadband networks and various service provider infrastructures, the method comprising:

establishing a second communication path that is independent of a first communication path that couples at least two end points via at least a first broadband network, wherein each network connection on said first communication path has a corresponding network connection on said second communication path; and

transferring information that would be normally transferred over said first communication path between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising provisioning said established second communication path for handling communication functions.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein said communication functions comprise one or more of operations administration maintenance and provisioning (OAM&P), roaming, user authentication, media transfer, caching, storage management and addressing management.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising temporarily storing said information during said transferring of said information between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first communication path is a physical communication path.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication path is a logical communication path.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication path comprises one or both of a circuit switched connection and a packet switched connection.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least two endpoints comprise a first source endpoint and at least a first destination endpoint.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said at least two endpoints comprises one or more of a media processing system, a media peripheral, a personal computer, a third (3rd) party media provider, a third (3rd) party storage vendor and a channel information server.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said second and said first communication paths comprises one or both of a wired and a wireless communication link.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon, a computer program having at least one code section for supporting a plurality of broadband networks and various service provider infrastructures, the at

least one code section being executable by a computer for causing the computer to perform steps comprising:

establishing a second communication path that is independent of a first communication path that couples at least two end points via at least a first broadband network, wherein each network connection on said first communication path has a corresponding network connection on said second communication path; and

transferring information that would normally be transferred over said first communication path between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

12.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, comprising code for provisioning said established second communication path for handling communication functions.

13.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said communication functions comprise one or more of operations administration maintenance and provisioning (OAM&P), roaming, user authentication, media transfer, caching, storage management and addressing management.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, comprising code for temporarily storing said information during said transferring of said information between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said first communication path is a physical communication path.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said second communication path is a logical communication path.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said second communication path comprises one or both of a circuit switched connection and a packet switched connection.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein said at least two endpoints comprise a first source endpoint and at least a first destination endpoint.

19.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein each of said at least two endpoints comprises one or more of a media processing system, a media peripheral, a personal computer, a third (3rd) party media provider, a third (3rd) party storage vendor and a channel information server.

20.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein each of said second and said first communication paths comprises one or both of a wired and a wireless communication link.

21.   (Currently Amended) A system for supporting a plurality of broadband networks and various service provider infrastructures, the system comprising:

at least one processor executing a provisioning protocol that establishes a second communication path that is independent of a first communication path that couples at least two end points via at least a first broadband network, wherein each network connection on said first communication path has a corresponding network connection on said second communication path; and

said at least one processor transfers information that would normally be transferred over said first communication path between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

22.   (Original) The system according to claim 21, said at least one processor provisions said established second communication path for handling communication functions.

23.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 22, wherein said communication functions comprise one or more of operations administration maintenance and provisioning (OAM&P), roaming, user authentication, media transfer, caching, storage management and addressing management.

24.   (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one processor temporarily stores said information during said transferring of said information between said at least two endpoints via said established second communication path.

25.   (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said first communication path is a physical communication path.

26.   (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said second communication path is a logical communication path.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said second communication path comprises one or both of a circuit switched connection and a packet switched connection.

28.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least two endpoints comprise a first source endpoint and at least a first destination endpoint.

29.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein each of said at least two endpoints comprises one or more of a media processing system, a media peripheral, a personal computer, a third (3rd) party media provider, a third (3rd) party storage vendor and a channel information server.

30.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein each of said second and said first communication paths comprises one or both of a wired and a wireless communication link.

31.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one processor comprises one or more of a media processing system processor, a media management system processor, a computer processor, a media exchange software processor and a media peripheral processor.